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EGYPT

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (LEAD) PROGRAM

Fact Sheet 2011



The LEAD program each year awards scholarships to one male and one female from each of Egypt's governorates to attend the American University in Cairo.

LEAD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Project Dates: July 2004 – July 2016

Funding: US\$53 million

Total Enrollment: 354 students

U.S. Semester Abroad: 107 students

Graduates: 89 graduates to date

Academic Achievement: 60 percent of LEAD students have a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher

OVERVIEW

Each year since 2004, two public high school students - one male and one female - from each of the governorates in Egypt have been chosen to receive full, undergraduate scholarships to the American University in Cairo (AUC). To date, the Leadership in Education and Development (LEAD) program has awarded scholarships to over 350 Egyptian students. The \$53 million program is fully funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

LEAD students are chosen for their academic potential, prior involvement in community service and leadership activities, and their potential to be future leaders in Egypt. Further, LEAD students are encouraged to choose from a variety of AUC majors that will prepare them to contribute to Egypt's long-term development.

Program Highlights

- **English Language Training:** LEAD students may spend their first year at AUC in a program dedicated to English language study. The language classes aim to prepare students for liberal arts, college-level study in English. Students who have sufficient college-level language skills upon entry commence coursework directly.
- **LEAD Orientation and Pre-Academic Training:** Upon entry to AUC, LEAD students receive information about adjusting to college and to life in Cairo. They also receive academic skills training in the use of computers, library research, time management, and communication and study skills to maximize their chances of success as an AUC student.
- **Semester Abroad Program:** 107 LEAD students have spent a semester studying abroad at U.S. universities including Harvard University, Portland State University, the State University of New York, James Madison University, the American University, Bard College and the University of Chicago.

Annual LEAD Conference

Each year LEAD students work together to organize and preside over a conference based on a topic of their choice. The 2010 conference was titled "Towards Cleaner Streets". The conference goal was to empower Egyptian youth through raising awareness and taking initiatives to address crucial issues related to Egypt's development.

Students worked on the academic foundation for a business plan that tackles Egypt's solid waste management problem while also benefiting young social entrepreneurs. From academic research, the teams moved on towards suggested solutions and their practical application within the Egyptian government and financial systems.